1968. No. 210 **[C]**

ACCREDITED PIG HERDS AND PIG TESTING SCHEME (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1968

SCHEME, DATED 10TH SEPTEMBER 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949.

The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(a), and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Citation and Commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1968, and shall come into operation on 1st November 1968.

Revocation

2. The Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1966(b) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme:—

"approved" means approved by the Ministry;
"authorised" means authorised by the Ministry;
"approved fattening farm" means a farm which has been approved by the Ministry as suitable for the purpose of fattening pigs off for slaughter and where the owner has agreed to mark all pigs being sold at bacon weight in accordance with sub-paragraph (*j*) of Article 6 of the Scheme;
"bacon weight" means any weight within a range deemed by the Ministry to conform with current market requirements for bacon pigs;
"hog" means a castrated male pig;
"Pig Production Development Committee" means the Committee established in accordance with Section 1 of the Pig Production Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(c);
"sow" includes gilt;
"sib" means a pig from the same sire and dam as the boar to be tested;
"half-sib" means a pig from the same sire but not the same dam as the boar to be tested.

Register of Accredited Herds

4.—(1) With the object of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of swine in Northern Ireland, the Ministry shall set up a register of pig herds in two sections, the first to be called "The Register of Accredited Elite Pig Herds" and the second to be called "The Register of Accredited Multiplying Pig Herds", in which shall be entered the names and addresses of herd owners and particulars of their herds when the Ministry is satisfied that the owners have complied with the conditions of Part I or Part II of the Scheme as the case

(a) 1949. c. 2.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1966, No. 223.
(c) 1964. c. 25 (N.I.).

may be and whose herds have attained the standards set out in either Part I or Part II of the Third Schedule as applicable.

(2) All breeding stock in a herd shall be entered in the Scheme.

(3) An owner may enter portion of his herd in Part I and the remainder in Part II of the Scheme but in such a case not fewer than 30 sows shall be entered in Part I.

PART I—ELITE PIG HERDS

Entry to Part I

5. Entry of a herd to Part I of this Scheme shall be subject to the following Rules:—

(*a*) the application for entry shall be in the form set forth in the First Schedule;

(*b*) only pedigree pigs of the Large White, Landrace, Welsh or other approved breed or strain shall be eligible for entry into the Scheme and the following paragraphs of this Article refer only to such pigs;

(*c*) where the application is in respect of pedigree pigs of more than one breed, each breed shall be regarded as a separate herd for the purposes of this Scheme;

(*d*) the herd shall consist of not less than fifteen breeding sows based on a quarterly average of that number taken over a period of one year whilst recording in the Scheme, and such sows together with the stock boars shall be deemed to constitute the herd of the applicant for the purposes of the Scheme.

Acceptance to Part I

6. The Ministry, on receipt of an application, may intimate its acceptance of a herd into Part I of the Scheme provided that in its opinion the herd satisfies the conditions set forth in the Second Schedule and after receipt of notice of such acceptance the herd owner shall observe the following rules with respect to the herd:—

(*a*) mark all pigs to the satisfaction of the Ministry;

(*b*) register with the appropriate Breed Society all stock retained for breeding;

(*c*) give the Ministry written notice of his intention to transfer any pig into the herd at least 48 hours prior to such transfer;

(*d*) a pig which has been removed from a herd shall not be returned to that herd without the Ministry's written permission;

(*e*) maintain not less than fifteen sows of each breed of swine accepted in the Scheme based on a quarterly average of that number over a period of one year whilst recording in the Scheme;

(*f*) notify the Ministry of all births within one week of the date thereof;

(*g*) record the number of pigs born, the number alive at 21 days and 42 days old, abnormalities, ages and weights at slaughter and any other information that the Ministry may require;

(*h*) weigh and record the weights of all pigs at 21 days and 42 days old;

(*i*) arrange for the feeding on the farm or on an approved fattening farm and sale live at bacon weight to the Pigs Marketing Board for slaughter all pigs not retained or sold for breeding purposes. The number of pigs sold at bacon weight for slaughter shall be at least 40 per cent. of the total number of pigs weaned;

(*j*) each pig being sold at bacon weight for slaughter shall have been marked with a numbered metal ear tag or other approved system of marking; the marked number shall be entered on a card provided by the Ministry for such purpose and forwarded with the pig to the bacon factory;

(*k*) submit each month on a form provided by the Ministry for the purpose details of stock sold for breeding and of stock which have died;

(*l*) submit on request to the Ministry the grading data including weight and age at slaughter of all pigs sold for slaughter from the herd during the preceding year;

(*m*) provide all the necessary facilities and assist the Ministry's officers in the weighing of pigs, checking of records and in all other matters connected with the Scheme;

(*n*) permit the Ministry to take blood samples of any pig being recorded in the Scheme or to carry out any post-mortem examination of any sick or dead pig as it may require;

(*o*) supply to the Ministry for performance testing or progeny testing at the Pig Testing Station such pigs as the Ministry may select.

Accreditation of Elite Pig Herds

7.—(1) When the Ministry is satisfied after its acceptance of a herd that the rules and conditions contained in Article 6 have been observed and that over a period of one year the standards laid down in Part I of the Third Schedule have been attained, the herd shall be registered as an Accredited Elite Pig Herd and shall, unless such registration is cancelled, so remain for a period of one year from the date of the registration. While such registration continues the herd owner shall as directed by the Ministry:—

(*a*) supply progeny of his stock boars for testing at the Ministry's Pig Testing Station with at least one boar undergoing test each year for every twelve sows being recorded in the herd and with a minimum of two boars undergoing test in any year; and

(*b*) follow an approved programme of matings and farrowings.

(2) A herd which, on assessment, does not attain the prescribed accreditation standards or an Accredited Elite Pig Herd which fails to maintain the said standards at an annual re-assessment shall be re-assessed at intervals of three months on the basis of the herd records over the preceding twelve months and shall be registered, or re-registered as the case may be as an Accredited Elite Pig Herd at the first qualifying assessment; provided also that an Accredited Elite Pig Herd which fails to retain Accredited Elite status may be classified as an Accredited Multiplying Herd provided it has reached the standards of such herds as prescribed in Part II of the Third Schedule.

(3) The owner of an Accredited Elite Pig Herd shall sell stock for breeding in Northern Ireland.

Performance and Progeny Testing

8.—(1) The Ministry shall have absolute discretion as to which pigs are tested at the Ministry's Pig Testing Station.

(2) Four pigs from each of six litters sired by each stock boar in an Accredited Elite Pig Herd shall be selected for testing. Each litter group shall subject to paragraph (1) consist of two boars selected by the owner, one gilt and one hog selected by the Ministry. In addition to taking part in the progeny test, the two male pigs in the litter shall be performance tested. The litters

from which the pigs are selected shall comply with the conditions set out in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Part I of the Fourth Schedule.

(3) Delivery of pigs to the Ministry's Pig Testing Station shall be in accordance with the paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of Part I of the Fourth Schedule.

(4) The system of testing, the method employed and the standards applied shall be determined by the Ministry in consultation with the Pig Production Development Committee.

(5) The Ministry may at its discretion accept for testing pigs from pedigree or non-pedigree litters which are not born in an Accredited Elite Pig Herd or in a herd which has been accepted for entry into the Scheme provided that a request for such testing is received from the owner at least three weeks before each litter is born and provided also that the herd owner shall comply with sub-paragraphs (*f*), (*g*), (*h*) and (*m*) of Article 6 in respect of all such litters.

Assessment of Performance Tested Boars

9.—(1) A boar which has been performance tested at the Ministry's Pig Testing Station shall be assessed by the Ministry in accordance with the provisions set out in Part II of the Fourth Schedule.

(2) Boars qualifying for retention as stock boars as a result of the performance test shall be classified as Group I or Group II boars according to the results obtained and shall be sold to the entrants on such terms as the Ministry may in consultation with the Pig Production Development Committee determine; boars not classified as Group I or Group II shall be sold for slaughter.

Assessment of Progeny Tested Boars

10.—(1) A boar shall become approved when at least six litters sired by him have been tested at the Ministry's Pig Testing Station and have attained the required standards following assessment in accordance with Part III of the Fourth Schedule, provided that the Ministry may also approve a boar which has been progeny tested at another Testing Station where his progeny have attained standards which are deemed by the Ministry to be equivalent to those laid down in this Scheme.

(2) A boar which on test is found to be transmitting abnormalities shall be slaughtered.

Part II—Multiplying Pig Herds

Entry to Part II

11. Entry of a herd to Part II of the Scheme shall be subject to the following Rules:—

(*a*) the application for entry shall be in the form set forth in the First Schedule;

(*b*) the herd shall comprise not less than four breeding sows; and

(*c*) all female breeding stock intended for recording in the Scheme must be approved by the Ministry.

Acceptance to Part II

12. The Ministry on receipt of an application may intimate its acceptance of a herd into Part II of the Scheme provided that in its opinion the herd satisfies the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) of the Second Schedule and after receipt of notice of such acceptance the herd owner shall observe the

following rules with respect to the herd:—

(*a*) mark all pigs to the satisfaction of the Ministry;

(*b*) give the Ministry written notice of his intention to transfer any pig into the herd at least 48 hours prior to such transfer;

(*c*) obtain the permission of the Ministry prior to returning to the herd a pig which had been removed from the herd;

(*d*) notify the Ministry of all births within one week of the date thereof;

(*e*) record the number of pigs born, the number alive at 21 days and 42 days old, abnormalities, ages and weights at slaughter and any other information which the Ministry may require;

(*f*) feed on the farm and sell live at bacon weight to the Pigs Marketing Board for slaughter all pigs not retained or sold for breeding purposes. The number of pigs sold at bacon weight for slaughter shall be at least 40 per cent. of the total number of pigs weaned;

(*g*) each pig being sold at bacon weight for slaughter shall have been marked with a numbered metal ear tag or other approved system of marking; the marked number shall be entered on a card provided by the Ministry for such purpose and forwarded with the pig to the bacon factory;

(*h*) submit each month on a form provided by the Ministry for the purpose details of stock sold for breeding and of stock which have died;

(*i*) submit on request to the Ministry the grading data including weight and age at slaughter of all pigs sold for slaughter from the herd during the preceding year;

(*j*) provide all the necessary facilities and assist the Ministry's officers in the weighing of pigs, checking of records and in all other matters connected with the Scheme;

(*k*) all female breeding stock not bred in the herd must be bred in herds accredited as Elite Pig Herds under the Scheme or from a herd which has attained standards deemed by the Ministry to be equivalent to the standards set out in Part I of the Third Schedule;

(*l*) use only in the herd a stock boar bred in an Accredited Elite Pig Herd which has been classified as a result of performance testing in accordance with the provisions of Article 9, or a boar deemed by the Ministry to be of equivalent standard of such a boar;

(*m*) permit the Ministry to take blood samples of any pig being recorded in the Scheme or to carry out any post-mortem examination of any sick or dead pig as it may require.

Accreditation of Multiplying Pig Herds

13.—(1) When the Ministry is satisfied after its acceptance of a herd that the Rules contained in Article 12 have been observed and that over a period of one year the standards laid down in Part II of the Third Schedule have been attained, the herd shall be registered as an Accredited Multiplying Pig Herd, and shall, unless such registration is cancelled, so remain for a period of one year from the date of such registration.

(2) A herd which, on assessment, does not attain the prescribed accreditation standards or an Accredited Multiplying Herd which fails to maintain the said standards at an annual re-assessment shall be re-assessed at intervals of three months on the basis of the herd records over the preceding twelve months and shall be registered, or re-registered, as the case may be as an Accredited Multiplying Herd at the first qualifying assessment.